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ABSTRACT

Emphasizing the unity of the Nebraska American Indians and their increasing involvement in their own affairs, this first (1971-72) annual report of the Nebraska Indian Commission presents the following: (1) names and tribal affiliations of the Commission's members; (2) "Letter of Transmittal" to the Governor of Nebraska from the Commission's Executive Director; (3) an official description of the Commission's function (the official liaison between 14,000 Indians located on three reservations and off the reservations in rural and urban areas and the State Government, the Legislative body, and other elected officials); (4) division achievements (a month by month chronology of events); (5) the Commission's activities (participative cooperation and communication with: all local, on- and off-reservation, statewide, and national Indian organizations; urban Indian organizations; other State Indian Commissions; Tribal Councils in identification of reservation needs and data compilation; off-reservation Indians in identification of priority problems; State and Federal agencies; the Governor and the Legislature); (6) the Commission's research and achievements described in terms of objectives and results (housing; education and training; welfare; medical-dental care; employment; economic development; and legal services). (JC)

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Report of the Nebraska Indian Commission

annual report
1971–1972

RC009121

REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

FISCAL YEAR 1971 - 1972

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1972

LEONARD SPRINGER (DECEASED)----------OMAHA TRIBE

EDWARD CLINE (WITHDREW TRIBE)----------OMAHA TRIBE

VICTOR ROBINSON (WITHDREW TRIBE)----------OMAHA TRIBE

GORDON BEAVER----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

ELWOOD HARDING----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

FELIX WHITE----------WINNEBAGO TRIBE

DONALD LAPOINTE----------SANTEE-SIOUX

WILLARD MACKEY, SR.----------SANTEE-SIOUX

GORDON KITTO----------SANTEE-SIOUX

OLIVER SAUNSACI (LINCOLN INDIAN CENTER)----------OMAHA TRIBE

MARION PENISKA (OMAHA - A.E.C. (I.C.I.A.)----------PONCA TRIBE

PETER THOMAS (OMAHA - I.C.C.A.)----------OMAHA TRIBE

CARL JANIS (AT LARGE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE UN-ORGANIZED WESTERN NEBRASKA INDIANS)----------OGALLALA-SIOUX

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. MACKEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 30, 1972

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

STATE OF NEBRASKA
NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68509

THE HONORABLE J. JAMES EXON, GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA

SIR: The Nebraska Indian Commission is honored in submitting this 1971-1972 year end report in keeping with the requirements of the legislative Bill 904, Section 4, Article 4 and 5.

The Nebraska Indian Commission represents the three established Tribes of the Omaha, Santee-Sioux, Winnebago, and those Indians living off of the reservations in rural, urban, metropolitan areas and those who live in Western Nebraska, with a total Indian population of 14,500.

When the Legislature unanimously approved LB 904 it became law when you affixed your signature as Governor on May 22, 1971. This action established the Nebraska Indian Commission as a permanent State Agency. The problems of the Indians are unique and complex because of the Federal Land Treaties, Tribal Government, State Government and the different cultures of the tribes involved. The Nebraska Indian Commission has met these challenges head on and by being involved in their own affairs and through the support of existing State Agencies and their resources, we have moved ahead in resolving some of our problems.

The Nebraska Indian Commission hereby acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of your office, the 1971 Legislative body, and all State Agencies, and Federal offices who have shown us a spirit of cooperation and assistance.

The Indians of Nebraska have a voice in the affairs all the way from their Tribal Government, County, State, Regional, and Federal levels.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert B. MacRae

FORWARD

1971 - 1972 ANNUAL REPORT

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

The Nebraska Indian Commission serves as the official liason between the 14,000 Indians on the three reservations, and off-reservation in rural, urban and metropolitan areas with the State Government, the Legislative body, and other elected governmental officials. The Nebraska Indian Commission is charged by the Legislative Bill 904 to "join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the cause of Indian Rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians... to promote State and Federal legislation beneficial to the Indian community in Nebraska... to coordinate existing programs relating to the Indian community in such areas as housing, education, welfare, medical and dental care, employment, economic development, legal services, and related problems... to work with other state and federal agencies and federal and state elected officials in the development of new programs in areas mentioned above... to keep the Governor's office appraised of the situation in the Indian community... to provide the public with information and education relevant to Indians involvement of Indian people in activities for the common benefit of the Indian Community.

The problems for the Nebraska Indians began over a century ago when the United States Government permitted the White Settlers to occupy Indian Lands and in exchange the Indians were placed on Reservations. As a result of this action, the White Settlers became prosperous and independent and the Indians became a segment of society which was socially and economically deprived. It is the responsibility of the Nebraska Indian Commission to bridge this gap in White and Indian relations to bring about a better understanding and solutions to the existing problems.

Data from the Nebraska Indian Community will enable the Congressional delegation, State Legislature, County and Local officials to develop meaningful programs affecting the State's Indian population.

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

REPORT

DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS

AND

ACTIVITIES OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

1972

ROBERT B. MACKEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OF THE

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

1972

JANUARY:

DENVER, COLORADO - NATIONAL PLANNING MEETING OF THE INDIAN SOCIAL WORKERS OF AMERICA TO IDENTIFY PROGRAMS OF H. E. W. Social Rehabilitation Services for Indians.

SIOUX FALLS, SO. DAK. - ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN A.B.E. TEACHER & TEACHER AIDE TRAINING PROJECT - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO.

KANSAS CITY, MO. - REGION VII MEETING OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES, ASCENSION HERNADEZ, ASSISTANT MANPOWER PROGRAMS SPECIALIST, WELFARE CONFERENCE.

LINCOLN, NEBR. - TEACHERS SENSITIVITY TRAINING ORIENTATION IN INDIAN STUDENT EDUCATION, MRS ANN BARRY.

LINCOLN, NEBR. - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, DR. CALDWELL DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM, TO DRAFT NEW INDIAN BURIAL LAW

FEBRUARY:

OMAHA, NEBR. - INDIAN-MEXICAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE

LINCOLN, NEBR. - RURAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS, TTT

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SURPLUS TEXT BOOKS FOR NEBRASKA INDIANS

FRESNO, CALIF. - RURAL INDIAN HEALTH PROBLEMS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON D.C. - NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE CIVIL RIGHTS.

MARCH:

GORDON, NEBRASKA - MEETING WITH INDIAN LEADERS REGARDING RAYMOND YELLOW THUNDER MURDER.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA - HARRY BIRD, SIOUX INDIAN, DOUGLAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT HEARING ON FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS SUIT.

WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA - HOUSING MEETING WITH THOMAS DALHASEN

SCOTTSBLUFF, ALLIANCE, CHADRON, GORDON, INDIAN ORGANIZATION

BISMARK, N.D. - MEETING OF I.C.A.P. ADVISORY COUNCIL OF N.D., S.D. AND NEBRASKA INDIANS.

APRIL:

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA - AMERICAN INDIAN ABE TEACHER AND TEACHER AIDE TRAINING PROJECT.

CHADRON, NEBRASKA - NEBRASKA INDIAN COMPENSATORY EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

APRIL:

BLAIR, NEBRASKA - DANA COLLEGE INDIAN CONFERENCE

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA -ANNUAL CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCE ON INDIAN PROJECTS.

GERING, NEBRASKA - PLATTE VALLEY LAKOTA ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATION MEETING.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - OMAHA INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA - INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND PIMA RESERVATION.

MAY:

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - INDIAN CULTURAL WEEK.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA - INDIAN CIVIL RIGHIS CONFERENCE.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - STATE COLLEGE BOARD - ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING TALENT SEARCH DIRECTOR SCREENING.

NIOBRARA, NEBRASKA - SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE MEETING WITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE-DOCTOR MARSH

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - THE NEBRASKA COMMITIEE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MEETING.

SANTEE, NEBRASKA - SANTEE-SIOUX ASSOCIATION MEETING.

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING REGARDING AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRIES PROJECT.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - STATE PUBLIC WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SYNOD INDIAN ORIENTATION OF PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH ENROUTE TO OKLAHOMA RESERVATION-PROJECT.

JUNE:

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - STATE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS MEETING BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS REGARDING CIVIL RIGHTS IN EMPLOYMENT OF MINORITIES.

KANSAS, MISSOURI - FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL INDIAN TASK FORCE MEETING.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - MEETING WITH MR. PAUL O'HARA TO DRAFT LEGISLATIVE BILLS FOR NEBRASKA INDIANS.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - ANNUAL AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - STATE COLLEGE BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL SCREENING OF TALENT SEARCH DIRECTOR APPLICANTS.

JUNE:

WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA - INDIAN YOUTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - MEETING WITH DR. NOAH MOORE, JR. BISHOP OF UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE REGARDING STATUS OF AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRIES PROJECT.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - MEETING WITH MR. ROBERT MEADE OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE REGARDING OCTOBER CONFERENCE.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - STATE COLLEGE BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS OF APPLICANT FOR DIRECTORSHIP OF TALENT SEARCH PROJECT FOR NORTHEAST NEBRASKA INDIANS.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - MEETING WITH DAVE DORPAT OF STATE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING FOR INDIAN HEALTH SURVEY PROJECT AND SIGNING OF CONSULTATION AGREEMENT WITH MAX C. CAVEY, MANAGEMENT ANALYST.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING.

ACTIVITIES

THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION:

Participates with all local, on-reservation and off-reservation, state-wide or national Indian organizations;

To be concerned withthe Urban Indian organizations and groups;

To serve as liason between organizations and people who are seriously interested in helping to solve the problems of the Nebraska Indians;

To be in communication with other State Indian Commissions;

To work with the Tribal Councils to identify the reservation needs, and to compile data pertinent to the solutions of these problems;

To work with the Indian Leaders from off-reservation organizations to identify their priority problems and to receive suggestions to meet these needs;

To be in communication with State and Federal Agencies;

To be cooperative with the Governor and Legislature.

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The work of the Commission is projected towards the reservations and towards those Indians who have moved off of the reservations to urban areas, therefore the success of the Commission's operation depends upon the best possible relationship with all the principals involved which includes the Tribal Chairman, urban Indian Centers, and the heads of Federal, State, County, and Local agencies. Communication with these offices represent a most important cousulting resource and it is through these consultants that the needs of the Indian people are identified and often recommend possible solutions to the Commission who can call the existing resources to meet the specific needs as they develop.

The Commission is constantly on the watch to identify the problems of the Indians and to develop programs when programs do not exist.

The succeeding pages in this report will indicate the Findings of the Nebraska Indians, and what the resultant actions produced through Self-Determination and Indian Involvement in his own Affairs.

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

H O U S I N G

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Housing are:

> To assist the three Tribal Reservation Indians and Urban Indians to bring about Housing Programs.

RESULTS:

The Nebraska Indian Commission has been actively involved in getting Housing Programs on all three Reservations and additional emergency funds for interim housing.

There is still a great need for more housing programs for off-reservation Indians.

Special actions is being requested by all agencies to bring about an immediate implementation for this extreme housing need.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Education are:

> To find and report the educational and training needs to State, Federal and Universities.

RESULTS:

On all three Indian Reservations, there are now in operation: Headstart Programs, New Schools, Special Lanuage and Cultural Classes, Manpower Training School Openings, Upward bound Programs, Teacher Tutorial Training, Special University Counseling Courses, and Curriculum Development Programs, Unviersity Scholarships, Bureau of Indian Affairs Scholarships, Private Scholarships. A mobile Library is available to the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes. Nebraska Indians administrate the Johnson-Omalley Funds. The Nebraska Indians administrate the Talent Search Project.

WELFARE

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Welfare are:

> To find & report the welfare needs to the County, State, and Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies.

RESULTS:

At the present time, all three Tribal Reservations by policy receive 90 days interim assistance from the B.I.A. until the Indian client is processed into the county and state welfare program. Assistance to the Nebraska Indians has been extremely limited, however this has been brought to the attention of State and Federal offices and some improvements have been made.

MEDICAL - DENTAL CARE

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Medical-Dental care are:

To assist all Indian Health agencies and others to identify the existing health problems including specific health related problems, lack of communication and service.

RESULTS:

Public Health Services are available for all three Indian Reservations. In urban and metropolitan areas there is limited medical services under University programs, but medical and dental service to Indians is limited.

At the Santee-Sioux Indian Reservation, a special dental program for adults proved to be successful. There is a Community Health Representative program on all three reservations. The Winnebago tribe has an Alcohol Rehabilitation Program approved and funded. The Omaha Tribe is operating an ALIVE program for feeding the poor. "Project Concern," A privately funded medical clinic plans to offer services in Western Nebraska. The University of Nebraska medical college is contemplating a medical clinic in Rural areas.

EMPLOYMENT

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Employment are:

To assist the Indian people by improving communications and working relationship between employment offices and the Indian community.

By having Indian Employment workers who have gone directly to the three reservations.

To find ways to develop employment possibilities.

To promote vocational training programs.

RESULTS:

It has been determined that the Indians of Nebraska have not been able to enjoy suitable and renumerative employment because the Indians have not had adequate educational training opportunities to become competitive.

The Nebraska Indians have been exploited and have been victims of out right discrimination practices.

Two of the three tribes have developed jobs for many of their people by some Industrial Development and government contracts. The future of the Nebraska Indians in the Employment picture is good and will improve, as Economic Development expands in this State.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Economic Development are:

The three tribes of Nebraska are involved in an active organization called the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Economic Development, Inc. for the purpose of utilizing the greatest economic potential for the State of Nebraska in the human and natural resources in its Indian citizens. For too long a time the Nebraska Indians have been kept out of sight and were deprived an equal place in the sun.

RESULTS:

The Winnebago tribe has utilized its Industrial Park and has one of several industrial programs in operation for the purpose of offering employment and training opportunities for its tribal members on the reservation.

The Omaha tribe has been active in government contract work offering employment to its tribal members, and by Federal work programs.

All three tribes have strong economic development potential in the natural resources that are untapped, with the Tourist and year-round Recreation in great demand.

The three tribes will emerge as very strong economic development potentials because of new educational and training opportunities, and by virtue of industries that will be brought in to the reservations.

LEGAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Indian Commission's Objectives in Indian Legal Services are:

To seek ways of meaningful communication and cooperation between Indian reservation officials and the offices of State Attorney General, State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Game and Parks Commission, County Sheriffs, and Chiefs of Police, and the State Crime Commission.

To establish means and procedures for identifying the conflicts and disagreements arising from cultural differences.

To assist the three tribes in providing a full range of equitable Law and Order services for the Nebraska Indian community.

Of the several Federally funded Legal services in this State none have the jurisdiction to offer legal counsel, when Civil Rights problems exceed all other problems of Indians in Nebraska.

RESULTS:

The Omaha Indian Tribe in Thurston County has been granted a Retrocession Authority in regard to Tribal Law and Order wherein the Federal government has jurisdiction in the major crimes committed on their reservation.

The Winnebago Indian Tribe in Thurston County are studying the feasibility of also seeking Retrocession Authority, to enable them a fair day in court.

The Santee-Sioux are presently under the jurisdiction of the County and State jurisdiction, however with this tribe's new economic development program, some other Law and Order system will become necessary. Two special police have been assigned to Santee under E.E.A.

All other Indians in the State are under the respective jurisdictions of the County and State Laws.

SUMMARY

The status of the Nebraska Indians is steadily improving because they are now involved in their own affairs, dealing with critical problems of long standing, wherein only Indians clearly identify and have the capabilities to render action in their search for solutions. The Indians have seen the need for organization stability on the reservations as well as in the urban areas. There is no room or time for inter-tribal strife, because unity is now the watch word. It is clearly evident that some tribes are practicing this need for unity, and this is manifested in the vigorous programs in Housing, Health, Education, Welfare, and other important programs on these tribal reservation and in some urban areas.

The Indians of Nebraska extend their sincere gratitude to the many interested Nebraskans in official and in private capacities who have contributed time and effort to the Nebraska Indian cause, particularly to the Eighty-Second Legislature which made the Nebraska Indian Commission a permanent State Agency.